



YOUTHS MEDIA and POLITICS

A New Identity



Editor
Aida Mokhtar

YOUTHS MEDIA and POLITICS

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CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTORS'	ix
PREFACE	xiii
INTRODUCTION	xv

1

THE YOUNG MALAYSIA VOTER

Syed Arabi Idid

PREVIOUS STUDIES	2
COMPARISONS OF STUDIES CONDUCTED	5
OUTCOMES OF THE STUDY	6
PROBLEMS FACED BY THE COUNTRY	7
CONCLUSION	21
REFERENCES	23

2

A SEMIOTIC ANALYSIS OF 'INDIVIDUALISM' AND 'COLLECTIVISM': THE GLOBAL 'BERSIH 3.0' WEBSITE

Aida Mokhtar

BACKGROUND ²	29
VOTING TRENDS IN GENERAL ELECTION 13	30
CULTURE, CULTURAL VALUES AND WEBSITES	31
CURRENT STUDY	34
KEY SIGNS AND INTERPRETATIONS	36
CULTURAL VALUES OF SIGNS AND SIGNIFICANCE	39
CONCLUSIONS	40
REFERENCES	41

3

NARCISSISM AND THE NEW CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP: THE EXPERIENCES OF THREE MALAYSIA BLOGGERS

Shafizan Mohamed

NARCISSISTIC POLITICS	48
REFERENCES	61

NARCISSISM AND THE NEW CULTURE OF CITIZENSHIP: THE EXPERIENCES OF THREE MALAYSIAN BLOGGERS

Shafizan Mohamed

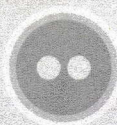
As citizens, the bloggers have refocused their political attention outside the parliamentary system; they are in the process of redefining just what constitutes the political, often within the contexts of civil society where according to Beck (1999) the boundaries between politics, cultural values, identity processes and local self reliance measures become fluid. Politics is not only an instrumental activity for achieving specific goals, but is also an expressive activity, a way of asserting values, ideals and belonging. In Malaysia specifically, a country where politics is racially and culturally divided, partisan politics are often seen as a way of supporting and resisting the status quo. In an environment where freedom of speech and expression is often contested, citizens are restricted to having their voices heard only at the election polls. For many ordinary citizens, political participation is mostly restricted to being law abiding citizens who discuss issues only with close acquaintances.

Blogging brings in new cultures of citizenship that will have a significant effect on how citizenship and politics are experienced by these bloggers specifically; and by Malaysians in general. Following Dahlgren (2003, 2005 and 2006) and Couldry (2006) who argued that democratic engagement should be framed less by the political lens and be understood more through a cultural approach by identifying new cultures of citizenship that can link politics to the everyday citizen, blogging to be a practice that links private action to national politics. Couldry (2006: 323) asked, 'What would a culture of citizenship look like? Is it perhaps the absence of such a 'culture' that underlies the often-feared decline of politics? Or, more positively, what new cultures of citizenship might be emerging, and where or how can we best look for them empirically?' Responding to his queries, that emerging new cultures of citizenship can be found in how blogging is experienced by Malaysian bloggers.

YOUTHS MEDIA and POLITICS

A New Identity

The 13th General Election (GE13) campaign in Malaysia had the youths controlling the voting trend. This ambiance brought about Youths, Media and Politics: A New Identity that comprises a delightful assortment of chapters predominantly focusing on research studies carried out on GE13 in Malaysia. This book is an exciting read as it looks at the perception of youths towards the media, the content of the media, the use of the media by youths, the expectations of some leaders' use of social media, and the influence of social media amongst them.



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